

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please delete the section captioned "CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS" and replace such deleted section with the following replacement section:

**--CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/159,497, filed on September 23, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. [[\_\_\_\_]] 6,611,774, which is expressly incorporated herein in its entirety by reference thereto, and claims priority to Application No. 2,242,497, filed in Canada on August 19, 1998.--.

Please replace the paragraph starting on line 12 of page 3 with the following replacement paragraph:

--In accordance with the invention, this object is achieved with an interface device for interfacing at least a portion of at least one string of batteries with a battery monitoring system. The interface device includes at least one probe means for respectively probing the portion of the at least one string, each one of the probe means including a controllable sensing means for sensing a plurality of parameters of the corresponding portion, a communication means for communicating data to and from the controllable sensing means, the data including control signals sent from the battery monitoring system to the controllable sensing means, and information signals relating to the parameters of the corresponding portion that are selected by the control signals; and a memory for memorizing an address assigned to *the* corresponding probe means upon reception of an initialization signal sent by the battery monitoring system via the communication means. The interface device further includes a bus for serially interconnecting the communication means of each of the at least one probe means to the battery monitoring system in a daisy chain manner.--.

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 4, line 2 with the following replacement paragraph:

--In accordance with the invention, this other object is achieved with a plurality of batteries connected in series to form at least one string of batteries; a plurality of probe means for respectively probing at least a portion of the at least one string, each of the probe means including: a controllable sensing means for sensing a

plurality of parameters of the corresponding portion; a communication means for communicating data to and from the controllable sensing means, the data including control signals and information signals relating to the parameters of the corresponding portion that are selected by the control signal; a bus for serially interconnecting the communication means of each of said the at least one probe means in a daisy chain manner.--.

Please replace the section captioned "ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE" with the replacement section that appears on the following separate page as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.72(b).